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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to:
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Application Number	09/217,117
Filing Date	December 21, 1998
First Named Inventor	Yasutomo Nishina
Group Art Unit	2173
Examiner Name	Tadesse Hailu
Attorney Docket Number	450100-4033.1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

- Submission required under CFR 1.114.** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
 - ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☒ Enclosed
 - ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Miscellaneous**
 - ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 50-0320.**
 - ☒ Check in the amount of \$790.00 are enclosed for the following:
 - ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 01/26/2005 HALI11 00000119 09217117
 - ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 790.00 OP
 - ☐ Other:
 - ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Signature		Date	January 21, 2004
Name (Print/Type)	Dennis M. Smid	Registration No.	34,930

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Charles J. Sauer		
Signature		Date:	January 21, 2004
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) and application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.1 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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